

Tea Ceremony

The first in a series of public tea ceremony presentations will be held at the Art Complex Museum on Sunday, June 25, at 2 pm.

The presentation will be held in the Wind in the Pines Hut, which was built in Kyoto and is authentic, except that one side is open for viewing. It is one of a very few such tea huts in New England. Museum founders Carl and Edith Weyerhaeuser, while traveling in Japan, were impressed with the importance of the tea ceremony. Eventually, they arranged for the tea hut to be placed on the property of their new museum in order to complement its important collection of Asian art.

The tea garden surrounding the tea hut was designed to prepare the body and mind for the tea ceremony. As guests approach, they may pause at the water basin in a symbolic cleansing, leaving the outside world behind.

The tea master, Aiko Rogers, is trained by the Urasenke School of Tea. She will explain the ceremony and answer questions. Utensils used for tea are exquisitely beautiful and span four centuries. The ceremony is a quiet, simple ritual based on hospitality. While not traditionally practiced as a performance, the presentation is designed for viewing.

Admission is free, but seating is limited and available on a first-come basis. Guests are advised to dress for the weather.

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